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25 Nov 53

C 31683

Country: Czechoslovakia

Subject: Vimperk Installations/Sumava Timber Industry/new Airfield/"Vltava" Hotel/
Military Ammunition Dump/Furniture factory/Renovation of Border bunkers.

Place Acquired:

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Date Acquired:

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Source:

SUMAVA TIMBER INDUSTRY, NATIONAL ENTERPRISE IN VIMPERK

[The exact location of this enterprise's management is indicated by the circled number 15 on map of Susice (Enclosure (A)).] The Sumava Timber industry in Vimperk includes the following lumber districts: Lipka, Prachatice, Vcelna, Volary, Ceske Zleby, Chlustov, Kramata, and Zdikov.

1. Management: Each lumber district has its own director, who is called the director of the felling district (formerly "forestermaster"). Under the felling district directors are the lumber overseers (formerly called "hajny", foresters). The Vimperk enterprise had about thirty lumber overseers; and was under the enterprise management in Ceske Budejovice, which was directly responsible to the Ministry of Forests and Timber in Prague.
2. Production: The Vimperk enterprise planned a yearly timber production of 240,000 cubic meters. The lumber plan was often changed during the course of the year; for instance, it was decreased three times for 1952, and was finally 80% fulfilled. Most of the felled lumber was delivered to the Czechoslovak Sawmills, National Enterprise, and pit props were sent to Czechoslovak mines. As far as foreign countries were concerned, wood was sent from this enterprise only to Belgium; and little was sent.
3. Equipment: The Vimperk enterprise had the following means of transport: twenty-nine five-ton trucks, various makes, most of which were in very good condition; 10 caterpillar tractors, about half of which were used a great deal; and 12 wheel tractors used as driving power for the production of electric current to drive the electric saws in the forests. The enterprise also had three private cars, make "Tatra 57", and thirty motorcycles, make "Jawa" and "CZ".

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4. Personnel: The administration of the enterprise is located in a former castle in Vimperk.

The enterprise manager is Jaroslav Baron, age 50, 176 cm., medium build, gray hair, bald in front, mild Communist, home Kvaskovice.

The representative for the firm is the chief engineer, Jan Tomasek, age 30, 170 cm., medium build, dark hair, very nervous (always tears his hair), intense Communist and collaborator with the STB / Straz Bezpecnosti-Security Police /; home in Vimperk.

The planning division manager is engineer Ladislav Kraus, no political ties; home Vimperk - castle.

The timber division manager is Ladislav Joza, age 32, slender, dark hair, mild Communist; home Kubova Hut.

The branch office manager is Dana Sichingerova, 21 years old; she was a member of the CSM / Ceskoslovensky Svaz Mladeze, Czechoslovak Federation of Youth /. This division had four officials.

The manager of the mechanization division was Bohumil Basta. This division had one other official.

The transportation division manager is Karel Malec, age 32, 180 cm. high, slender build, dark hair, face scarred by small-pox, a zealous Communist and STB agent; home in Bohumilice. There are 4 officials in this section.

The purchasing division manager is Jaroslav Mergl, non-Communist; there is one official besides him in the division.

The manipulation division manager is Frantisek Martan, age 40, height 176, medium build, dark hair, face scarred by small-pox; he was not a member of the KSC / Komunisticka Strana Ceskoslovenska-Czechoslovak Communist Party /; his home is in Vimperk. There are 4 officials besides him.

The manager of the salary and social division is /fnu/ Skopek, non-Communist; home in Predcice. The manager of the bookkeeping department is Bohumil Kubes, age 38, non-Communist. There are five officials in the bookkeeping department.

The president of the enterprise council is Tomas Janota, age 45, height 170, medium build, dark hair, ardent Communist.

The Vimperk enterprise had eight lumber areas under it. The managers of the individual areas are: Prachatice-Bernas; Vcelna-Trenda; Volary-Polak; Ceske-Zleby-Beranek; Chlustov-Joza; Kramata-Joza; Zdikov-Gagela.

There are three to four lumber overseers in each lumber area (determined by the size of the individual area).

In the eight above mentioned lumber areas, 195,000 cubic meters of timber were produced, thus fulfilling about 80-85% of the lumber plan in 1952.

5. Salary: The highest salaries in the Vimperk lumber industry are earned by the employees in the transportation division; a driver makes about 14,000 crowns and a freight man 12,000 crowns net a month, while the forest workers earned about 5,000 crowns net a month.
6. Political Affiliations: About 10% of the total personnel were Communists devoted to the regime; the rest were only "paper" Communist or non-party members. The morale of both the forest workers and the office workers was bad, because they earned comparatively little; food and other goods were terribly expensive on the open market, and the food and clothing rations came nowhere near covering the most stringent necessities.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIRFIELD

In June 1951 construction of military installations began in the area indicated by circled number 1 on the map of Susice (Enclosure (A)). This construction is directed by "Armastav" [Army Building Enterprise] from Ceske, Budejovic, and Plzen. About 500 soldiers and 100 civilians are working on the construction. Enterprise militia guard the entire area day and night.

Wooden houses serving as barracks have been set up for the soldiers working on this construction. Bulldozers and tractors were brought in.

Trees are being felled in the area indicated by circled number 2 (Enclosure (A)) and a military airfield will be built on the cleared area. Trucks have brought in all kinds of construction materials. At the beginning of 1952 a cable railway was put in, as indicated by circled number 4 (Enclosure (A)). This new cable railway leads from the newly established station to this building plot.

The position of the station, which was established in 1952, is shown under circled number 5 (Enclosure (A)). All kinds of material will be transported by this cable railway.

In September 1952 about seven brick buildings were constructed here, some of which were one-story and others two stories high. The position of these buildings is shown on the Enclosure under circled number 3. During the construction of the buildings, the clearing of the forest continues in preparation for the airfield space.

OCCUPATION OF HOTEL "VLTAVA" IN VIMPERK

The hotel "Vltava" in Vimperk was taken over for military purposes and single officers are housed there. The location of the hotel is shown on the Enclosure under circled number 7.

MILITARY AMMUNITION DUMP IN VIMPERK

The exact position of this dump is shown on the Enclosure by circled number 12. This dump contains ammunition for the garrison in Vimperk. In all there are four one-story buildings, two of which are brick and two wooden. The whole area is protected by barbed wire. This dump is guarded day and night. I do not know what kind of ammunition is kept here. I was last at the ammunition dump in November 1952.

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NEW FURNITURE FACTORY NOT FAR FROM VIMPERK

A new furniture factory called "Cesky Nabytek" [Czech Furniture] is being established in the area indicated by circled number 9 [Enclosure (a)]. At the end of October 1952 this enterprise was not yet in operation.

RENOVATION OF OLD BUNKERS ALONG CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER

All the concrete bunkers that were placed along the Czechoslovak borders during the time of the First Republic have been repaired and made ready for use. The bunkers are closed. I observed these bunkers in the area indicated by circled number 14 [Enclosure (a)].

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enclosure: A: Sketch map of Susice

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